Supply of components for nuclear power plants from a French Company

979. DR. BAPU KALDATE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that orders have been placed with C3F, (Componie Francaise de Forge et Foundaries), a French Company for the supply of some vital components for nuclear power plants in the country;

(b) whether these components are meant to be used in the power reactors proposed to be built in Karnataka and at Kakrapar in Gujarat; and

(c) if so, whether any tenders for the supply of these components were invited?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS AND SPACE (SHRI K. R. NARAYANAN): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

Duty on newsprint and its availability to newspapers

980. DR. MOHD. HASHIM KIDWAI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering any proposal to withdraw duty on newsprint;

(b) whether Government also propose to make newsprint available to small and medium newspapers at subsidised rates; and

(c) what steps have been taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI AJIT PANJA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) While 'small' newspapers are totally exempt from levy of customs duty on imported newsprint, 'medium' newspapers are charged duty @ Rs. 275/- per Metric Tonne only as against Rs. 550/- per Metric Tonne charged from 'big' newspapers.

Villages of Punjab to be transferred in lieu of Chandigarh

981. SARDAR GURCHARAN SINGH TOHRA: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Punjab has given any written assurance to the Central Government indicating the names of the villages to be transferred to Haryana in case Chandigarh is awarded to Punjab; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

New 20-point Programme

982. SHRI ALADI ARUNA alias V. ARUNACHALAM: Will the Minister of PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether the new 20-point Programme was finalised with consultation of the States; and

(b) if so, the dates of discussion with the various States and the views of the States thereon?

THE MINISTER OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI A. B. A. GHANI KHAN CHOUDHURY): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Advisory Panel on Water Management

983. SHRIMATI KRISHNA KAUL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have set up an advisory panel on water management; and

(b) if so, the terms of reference of panel and the names of the personnel thereof?